

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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APPROVED BY: EB-TOENDERS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS STATE 228199

FOR DEPUTY ASST SECRETARY JULIUS KATZ

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 228199 ACTION LAGOS INFO ACCRA  
EBIDJAN IBADAN 24 SEPT

QUOTE

UNCLAS STATE 228199

E.O. 11652; N/A

TAGS: EWWT, ETRD, EAGR, ETRN, BGEN, NI

SUBJECT: DELAYED EXPORTS OF NIGERIAN COCOA

REF: LAGOS 09174, LAGOS A-141

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL INQUIRIES FROM U.S. COCOA INDUSTRY DURING PAST TWO WEEKS ABOUT DELAYS IN SHIPMENT OF COVOA FROM LAGOS/APAPA TO U.S. U.S. BUYERS HAVE AS MUCH AS 15,000 METRIC TONS OF COCOA UNDER CONTRACT FOR SHIPMENT DURING JULY-SEPTEMBER, BUT ONLY SMALL PORTION HAS LEFT NIGERIA SO FAR. THIS DELAY IS HAVING SEVERE IMPACT ON U.S. COCOA BEAN PRICES, AND SOME U.S. MANUFACTURERS CLAIM THEY ARE ALREADY RUNNING SHORT OF BEANS.

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2. ACCORDING INDUSTRY SOURCES, #COCOA WAREHOUSES IN NIGERIA ARE BURDENED WITH THE ALREADY SOLD COCOA, AND THE NEW CROP SHOULD BEGIN ARRIVING AT THESE SAME WAREHOUSES IN LESS THAN TWO MONTHS. THEY POINT OUT THAT TWO SHIPS WITH CAPACITY TO LIFT ENTIRE AMOUNT DESTINED FOR U.S. ARE WAITING OUTSIDE LAGOS BUT CANNOT OBTAIN BERTHS. ALSO ACCORDING TO INDUSTRY SOURCES, USSR AND OTHER IMPORTING NATIONS ARE FACING SIMILAR PROBLEM AND HAVE ALREADY ASKED FMG FOR PRIORITY BERTHS. U.S.

SOURCES ARE NOT CERTAIN WHAT RESULTS THEIR INTERVENTIONS HAVE HAD IF ANY.

3. INFORMATION FROM COCOA INDUSTRY IS FIRST INDICATION RECEIVED BY DEPARTMENT THAT LAGOS PORT CONGESTION (REFS) IS SERIOUSLY AFFECTING EXPORTS AS WELL AS IMPORTS. DEPARTMENT WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION WHICH COULD BE SHARED WITH U.S. INDUSTRY. ARE VESSELS WHICH USE THE BERTHS ALLOVATED TO CERTAIN CONFERENCES PREOCCUPIED WITH UNLOADING AND THEREFORE NOT LOADING AVAILABLE EXPORT CARGOES BEFORE THEIR ALLOTTED TIME EXPIRES? WHEN DO PORT AUTHORITIES AND COCOA EXPORTERS EXPECT BULK OF COCOA SHIPMENTS TO BE MADE? IS FMG CONSIDERING ANY MEASURES TO FACILITATE LOADING OF EXPORT COCOA SHIPMENTS AS A RESULT OF OVERTURES BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS?

4. ALTHOUGH IT IS CONTRARY TO U.S. MARITIME POLICY TO SEEK PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR U.S. FLAG SHIPS OR SHIPS DESTINED TO U.S., EMBASSY MAY WISH TO POINT OUT TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES THE IMPORTANCE TO NIGERPA OF MAINTAINING REGULAR FLOW OF COCOA EXPORTS AND THE LONG-STANDING POSITION OF U.S. AS MARKET FOR NIGERIAN CROP.

5. FRONT PAGE ARTICLE ON NIGERIAN PORT CONGESTION FROM SEPTEMBER 10 JOURNAL OF COMMERCE HAS BEEN POUCHED TO LAGOS.

6. FYI, TRADE SOURCES REPORT THAT OLD CROP SHIPMENTS UNCLASSIFIED

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FROM GHANA AND IVORY COAST HAVE BEEN NORMAL. END FYI.

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* UNCLASSIFIED

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COCOA, PORT CONGESTION, TRADE DATA  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Document Number:** 1975STATE228199  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Office:** ORIGIN EB  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 LAGOS 9174, 75 LAGOS A-141  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MartinML  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 FEB 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 FEB 2003 by maustmc>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2004 by MartinML>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971022  
**Subject:** DELAYED EXPORTS OF NIGERIAN COCOA  
**TAGS:** BGEN, EAGR, ETRD, ETRN, EWWT, NI, BGEN, ETRN  
**To:** LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006